

The President. I have nothing to add to what I've said before. I believe what he did was legal, and the Justice Department has to make its own determination, which I'm confident they will do, based on the law.

Middle East Peace Process

Q. Back on the bombing, sir——

The President. Yes?

Q.——what does this do to the peace process, do you believe?

The President. I would hope it would give it added urgency. It is obvious that when things are hanging in limbo, all sides become more vulnerable to the enemies of peace, and particularly the people of Israel become more vulnerable to the terrorists who desperately do not want to see this peace process proceed. They do not want a peaceful resolution of the differences between the Israelis and the Palestinians. They do not want us to be able to go forward to see an ultimate resolution with the Syrians and the Lebanese. Hamas does not want that. Hamas and the other terrorists, they thrive on anger and anxiety and uncertainty and being able to inject their murderers into this situation.

So what I hope will happen is that we will see—we believe we've made some progress. Mr. Ross went out there—on the security cooperation, and I hope we'll see some more, and I hope we'll see that this peace process can get going again.

I think it's all the more important for Secretary Albright to go, and I've made it clear. And I tried to call Prime Minister Netanyahu. He was in the hospital with the victims and so he was unable to take my call, but I look forward to a discussion with him. I think it's important that she go on and go right out there, and we keep pushing this thing.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:18 p.m. at the press pool holding area. In his remarks, he referred to Special Middle East Coordinator Dennis B. Ross and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu of Israel.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on United States Government Activities in the United Nations

September 4, 1997

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit herewith a report of the activities of the United States Government in the United Nations and its affiliated agencies during calendar year 1996. The report is required by the United Nations Participation Act (Public Law 264, 79th Congress; 22 U.S.C. 287b).

William J. Clinton

The White House,
September 4, 1997.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 5.

Message to the Congress Transmitting the Report of the Federal Labor Relations Authority

September 4, 1997

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 701 of the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-454; 5 U.S.C. 7104(e)), I am pleased to transmit the Eighteenth Annual Report of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for Fiscal Year 1996.

The report includes information on the cases heard and decisions rendered by the Federal Labor Relations Authority, the General Counsel of the Authority, and the Federal Service Impasses Panel.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
September 4, 1997.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 5.

Statement on the Death of Mother Teresa

September 5, 1997

With the passing of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, the world has lost one of the giants of our time. She gave comfort to the poor, the suffering, and the dying, and served as an inspiration and a challenge to all of us.

Hers was a ministry of action—of passion and compassion. She led by serving, and showed us the stunning power of simple humility. Her unconquerable faith touched the lives of millions of people in India, here in the United States, and all around the world. I had the pleasure of meeting Mother Teresa when she came to Washington, and I was moved by her conviction and courage. Hillary had the privilege of working with Mother Teresa and her community to open a home for abandoned babies in Washington, and later Hillary and Chelsea had the opportunity to witness firsthand the work of Mother Teresa and her community in India.

The home for the dying she opened in Calcutta almost a half century ago is called Nirmal Hriday—"pure heart"—and if ever there was a pure heart, it was hers. Mother Teresa is gone, but as the Gospels teach us, these things endure: faith, hope, and love. She had them in abundance. They will stay with us always.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

September 2

The President announced his intention to nominate Barbara K. Bodine to be Ambassador to Yemen.

The President announced his intention to nominate Mayor Cardell Cooper of East Orange, NJ, to be Assistant Administrator for Solid Waste and Emergency Response at the Environmental Protection Agency.

The President announced his intention to nominate Daniel Fried to be Ambassador to Poland.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jane G. Gould to serve as Deputy Commissioner of the Social Security Administration.

The President announced his intention to nominate Richard J. Griffin to be Inspector General at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The President announced his intention to nominate B. Lynn Pascoe for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Special Negotiator for Nagorno-Karabakh.

The President announced his intention to nominate Julia V. Taft to be Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees, and Migration.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jeanette C. Takamura to serve as Assistant Secretary for Aging at the Department of Health and Human Services.

The President announced the recess appointment of Tadd Johnson as Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission at the Department of the Interior.

September 3

The President announced his intention to nominate Kathryn Walt Hall to be Ambassador to Austria.

The President announced his intention to nominate David Timothy Johnson to be the Head of the U.S. Delegation to the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe, with the rank of Ambassador.

The President announced his intention to nominate Tom McDonald to be Ambassador to Zimbabwe.

The President announced his intention to nominate Edward E. Schumaker III to be Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago.

The President announced his intention to appoint Charles R. Lee as Chair and Van B. Honeycutt as a member of the National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee.

September 4

The President announced his intention to nominate Stanley T. Escudero to be Ambassador to Azerbaijan.